crease in the prices of non-scheduled formulations varies from case to case.

(b) and (c) The increase is mainly due to increase in the cost of raw material and packing materials where the earlier price was fixed long time back under the DPCO, 1979. Government is constantly monitoring the prices of de-controlled drugs and under the DPCO, 1987 has the right to bring within control any such drug should it be considered necessary to do so.

Prices of single ingredient vitamins

637. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the producers of single ingredient vitamin branded formulations have increased the prices from 50 per cent to 150 per cent during last one month;

(b) if so, what are the names of brands of such formulations;

(c) what was the earlier price of each before DPCO, 1987 and what is the present price;

(d) what is the percentage increase in each case; and

(e) what is the justification for such increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) The required details to the extent available are given in the attached Statement at annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLV, Annexure No. 27].

(e) The increase in prices is mainly due to increase in cost of input materials. Producers of these medicines are free to revise their prices as per provisions of DPCO, 1987.

Pending applications for LPG in Gujarat

638. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of applications are pending for the supply of cooking gas in Gujarat at present;

(b) if so, how many applications are pending for the supply of cooking gas in Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat and Rajkot;

(c) whether any plan has been drawn to provide cooking gas connections to the applicants in Gujarat; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) The waiting list for new LPG connections as on 1st January, 1988 in Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat and Rajkot was around 106,300, 19,500, 50,500 and 28,700 respectively.

(c) and (d) Release of new LPG connections is done by the oil industry all over the country, including Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat and Rajkot, in a phased manner under its annual programme for enrolment of customers, subject to augmentation in availability of LPG and bottling capacity.

Different prices of LPG in various Cities

639. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of cooking gas is higher in Ahmedabad than that in Delhi at present;

(b) what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the price of gas which is supplied to consumers in Bombay, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Calcutta, Hyderabad and Lucknow?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The differences are due to transportation charges from the storage points, local levies applicable at the place, etc.

(c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Retail selling prices of LPG for domestic use in various Cities

City	Retail price (Rs. per 14.2 Kg. Cylinder)
Bombay . .	56.15
Bangalore . .	64.03
Chandigarh . .	64.01
Calcutta . .	63.20
Hyderabad . .	65.96
Lucknow . .	63.72

Comparative prices of Petrol

640. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the world the price of petrol is highest in India;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the price of petrol per litre before the levy of duties etc., and

(d) what are the comparative prices of petrol in the first ten countries of the world along with India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The present ex-storage point price of petrol (MS-87) excluding the customs/Excise duty of Rs. 2215.56 is Rs. 5478.51 (per kilolitre) i.e. Rs. 5.48 per litre.

(d) A statement showing the retail prices of Motor Spirit in some countries during January/February, 1987, the data in respect of which is available, is given below.

Statement

Comparative consumer retail prices of Motor Spirit in selected developed and developing countries during January/February 1987 (latest available)

Country	*Motor Spirit*
	(Rs per litre)
Brazil (Brasila)	9.04
Japan (Tokyo)	8.81
Vietnam (Hanoi)	8.47
France (Paris)	8.43
Rep. of Korea (Seoul)	7.83
Tanzania (Dares Salam)	7.80
Argentina (S. Aire)	7.33
Yugoslavia (Belgrade)	7.13
Switzerland (Berne)	7.04
U.K. (London)	7.04
India (New Delhi)	7.43

Price control on drugs

641. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Financial Express of 10th February, 1988 captioned 'Three Groups on Drug Development';